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METRO TAKES A MULTI-FACETED LOOK AT THE SEAL-HUNT DEBATE

PAGE 18-19



A vet in need is a vet indeed

Man's apparent suicide believed to be the fourth in the Canadian Forces since last week; Veterans group says these numbers may only hint at larger problem

PAGE 12

Find the goods in all the 'hoods

Ottawa hip-hop fan thinks you should stop listening to so much Lil Wayne and check out some local talent instead

PAGE 24

Did Ford offer \$5K, car for crack video?

Heard it on the wiretap. Police believe people under surveillance talked of T.O. mayor offering to purchase video

Police believe they overheard people on wiretaps during a gang investigation saying Toronto Mayor Rob Ford offered \$5,000 and a car in exchange for a video, according to a newly released police document.

The document contains wiretap evidence recording men arrested in a guns and drugs investigation talking with familiarity about Ford and suggesting they supplied him with drugs.

Ford's name surfaced on the intercepts in March and April, during a large investigation called Project Traveller, police allege. The document, containing allegations not proven in court, suggests some Project Traveller targets also talked

about blackmailing Ford with pictures of him using drugs.

One man says on the wiretaps he has pictures of Ford "doing the hezza," slang for heroin, and another man suggests the pictures would be valuable.

Ford's name allegedly emerged on wiretaps about two months before the Toronto Star and Gawker first reported alleged drug dealers were shopping around a video that appeared to show Ford smoking crack.

Information that police gathered from those wiretaps was in the remaining portions of a document filed in the drug case of Ford's friend Alexander Lisi.

The last portions to be made public summarize an intercepted conversation that police allege they heard on March 27. Investigators heard two men talking about plans to sell a tape and quoting Ford as saying "I'll give you 5,000 and a car," police allege in the document.

Ford's lawyer, Dennis Morris, told television station CP24 the latest allegations are baseless. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



ZAP! ZING! BUZZ! COPS GET TASERED

Const. Tella Prasanth shoots a Taser into Const. Ryan Weselake during a use-of-force demonstration for members of the media at Algonquin College Wednesday. For more on the story, turn to page 6. JOE LOFARO/METRO



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Ottawa residents to protest plan that raises hydro cost

Out of options. No more ways to save money on electricity, local man says

TREVOR GREENWAY
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Geoffrey Sharpe says the only way he can cut his energy consumption these days is to give up light switches for candles.

The Britannia resident says he has already spent thousands on upgrading all of his windows, changing his insulation and ridding his household of energy-sucking appliances.

So when he heard Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli announce the province's new long-term energy plan, which will see a 33 per cent rise in hydro costs over the next three years, he started to worry.

He's organized a protest this Saturday in front of Chiarelli's office to fight the steep rise.

"If you can come up with a way that I can save \$5 a month

on my electricity bill please bring it to my attention," he told Metro on Wednesday.

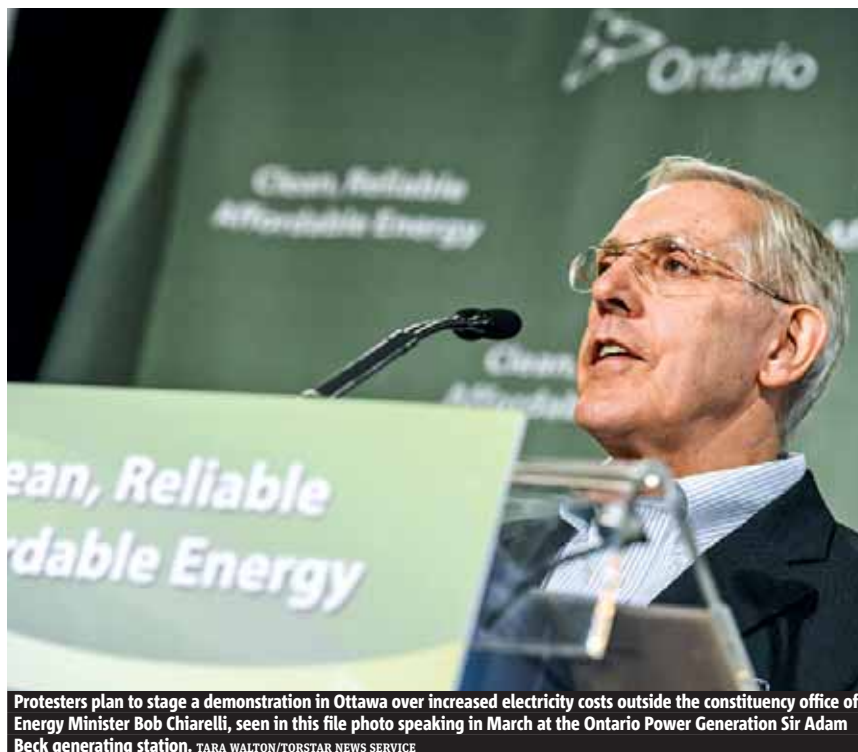
The new Liberal plan calls on homeowners to save money themselves by conserving energy and includes "on-bill financing for energy efficiency retrofits," which would provide loans for home renovations to be paid back through electricity bills.

Sharpe says he's already done everything he can on his 50-year-old brick home.

"There is absolutely no way that I could say to you right now that I know of a way of curtailing my bill, reducing bill by \$5, other than perhaps not turning the light on when I go upstairs at night, stumbling around with a candle."

The new plan will see the average homeowner's bill jump from \$125 this year to \$167 by 2016.

Sharpe, the spokesperson for a newly formed group called The Sparks, is calling on homeowners to show up at the rally Saturday from 1-3 p.m. in front of Chiarelli's office on Carling Avenue.



Protesters plan to stage a demonstration in Ottawa over increased electricity costs outside the constituency office of Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli, seen in this file photo speaking in March at the Ontario Power Generation Sir Adam Beck generating station. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Committee wants office budgets to fight speeders

With no money left in the city's 2012 budget, the city's transportation committee agreed councillors should pay for traffic-calming equipment out of their own constituency budget.

At Wednesday's transportation committee meeting, the city's manager of traffic management Phil Landry said the biggest traffic issue is congestion, but said speeding on residential roads is a close second.

He said the city is installing video surveillance on its busiest arteries and electronic message boards on highways 174 and the 417.

But with the transportation budget depleted for the year, Coun. Mathieu Fleury suggested councillors follow Alta Vista Coun. Peter Hume's lead and buy traffic calming equipment and radar speed signs out of their own constituency

budget.

"There are certainly challenges in dipping into your own constituency budget to initiate traffic programs in the riding, but I applaud Coun. Hume for having the initiative," said Fleury following Wednesday's meeting. "He has the capacity in his office budget and it's something we desperately need. It's not something I could do with my limited budget."

"In order to respond to my constituents I created a team and provided the resources to address speeding concerns," wrote Hume in an email following the meeting. "Coun. Fleury was impressed with the program, saw it as an opportunity to address community concerns and that others might want to start their own programs."

DENIS ARMSTRONG/METRO



Some city councillors are considering using their own office budgets to buy warning signs to measure driver speeds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1 NEWS

Snowshoers invited to Gatineau's annual cross-country ski party

36th Gatineau Loppet. Scandinavian-inspired event expected to surpass record of 2,200 skiers set in 2012

DENIS
ARMSTRONG
ottawa@metro.ca

The 36th annual Gatineau Loppet cross-country ski party is now inviting snowshoers to join in the race when it returns to Gatineau Park Feb. 15-16, 2014.

"We decided to open up the Gatineau Loppet and make it not only for cross-country skiers but also for snowshoers," said Gatineau Loppet president Yan Michaud, saying he expected some "crazy" skiers may also participate in the snow shoeing too.

Organizers have added



A group of skiers make their way down the course in frost-biting temperatures at the Gatineau Loppet cross-country ski race in Gatineau in February. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

three snowshoe races in addition to 5 km, 15 km and 27 km classic runs, a 51 km linear race on Saturday, Feb.

15, and 2 km, 10 km, 27 km and 51 km freestyle races on Sunday, Feb. 16 for skiers.

A tradition in Scandi-

navia, loppets offer hearty meals and drinks after every race, and for the first time in its 36-year history, Gati-

Snow jam

"We decided to open up the Gatineau Loppet and make it not only for cross-country skiers but also for snowshoers."

Gatineau Loppet President Yan Michaud

neau's event is opening the races to snowshoers.

The largest loppet in Canada, the 2012 Gatineau loppet, attracted more than 2,200 skiers of every skill level. This year, organizers hope that at least 2,500 skiers and snowshoers will tear a trail through Gatineau Park.

Registration costs \$10 for children and up to \$100 for adults, depending on the race and how early participants register.

Register online at gati-neauloppet.com.

All skiers welcome

For its 36th edition, the Gatineau Loppet will once again feature eight races for every level of skier.

- The Saturday, Feb. 15 races will be dedicated to the classic style, with the 5 km Metro News, 15 km BFL Canada, 27 km Otto's BMW Ottawa and the 51 km linear race, which this year will start at P17 in Wakefield.

- On the Sunday, Feb. 16, there will be the free-style mini Sport Échange Outaouais (2 km), 10 km, 27 km and 51 km Polar. The races sanctioned by Cross Country Canada are the 51 km classic style and the 51 km Polar freestyle.

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SkyHawks clash with Lightning

The Ottawa SkyHawks' Justin Tubbs dribbles away from the London Lightning's Raheem Singleton during Wednesday's NBL Canada game at the Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa. By press time London was leading in the third quarter 67-58. Go to metronews.ca for more coverage and photos. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO



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Ottawa police Const. Dave Cameron shows media a baton used by the police service and provides an example of its use by delivering a blow to Const. Darren Shore during a demonstration for members of the media on Wednesday. Cameron says a baton can be used by police as a lightweight but effective tool to bring down a suspect and gain compliance in an escalating situation. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Ottawa police demonstrate some tools of the trade

Use of force. Metro gets a behind-the-scenes look at some techniques, tactics ahead of planned Taser expansion



JOE LOFARO
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Ottawa police Const. Ryan Weselake found out for the first time what it's like to have

a surge of electricity travelling through his body thanks to fellow officer Const. Tella Prasanth, who Tasered him Wednesday at Algonquin College.

The two officers gave members of the media a behind-the-scenes look at some of the tools and techniques police learn about in the mandatory use-of-force training they must undergo each year.

A conductive-energy weapon, such as a Taser, is one of those tools. It's the weapon that Police Chief Charles Bordeleau wants to see carried by as many as 300 front-line officers.

The dart pierced Weselake's back, and the electric current sent him to the ground with the help of two other officers at his sides.

"Yeah, it hurts," he said after taking a minute to catch his breath. "It feels like a big muscle cramp. I couldn't move anything. All my muscles just tightened."

Sgt. Steven De Ville explained how he wished he had a Taser when he and a female officer responded to a domestic assault where a "very violent person" got a hold of their baton and pepper spray. The

combative man trashed the female victim's kitchen and caused her to have an asthma attack because he deployed the pepper spray, De Ville said.

"A (conductive-energy weapon) on scene would have stopped that circumstance immediately or he would not have trashed this poor victim's home and she would not have (had) to go to the hospital with an asthma attack as well," De Ville said. "So I think it's a great tool."

OPS policy requires officers to consider what's known as the use-of-force model when re-

sponding to a call. Though each call is unique and may require split-second decision-making, the model serves as a guide to how much physical force should be applied to de-escalate a situation.

"You're continually assessing, planning and acting based on what's occurring," explained Sgt. Pat Malone. "Sometimes communication is the best weapon."

Recently, the issue of excessive force was highlighted when a YouTube video circulated online in September showing an Ottawa police officer


repeatedly punching a man in the head during an altercation in the ByWard Market.

In that case, both Bordeleau and Ottawa Police Association president Matt Skof said the officer acted appropriately and applied reasonable force. The officer in question was cleared of any wrongdoing last month.

More online

Go to metronews.ca/ottawa to see a video of the Taser demonstration.





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Row upon row of videos are seen through the front door of one of Ottawa's few remaining video-rental stores.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

You name it, Glebe Video probably has it

Bank Street. Owner credits deep collection, rare film finds and knowledgeable staff with keeping local store in business

DENIS ARMSTRONG
ottawa@metronews.ca

Mention Glebe Video International, and anyone who's been there wants to talk about the staff who work there.

There are quite possibly more film-studies grads in this second-floor Bank Street video store on a Friday night than in most Canadian universities, which is why retired teacher Peter Senecal bought the business in the first place.

Never mind that the local video store is a dying trade

in Canada, Senecal — a big film fan and devoted Glebe Video customer — had no second thoughts about buying the business on July 1.

With one of the largest selections of foreign and classic film titles, 17,000 to 18,000 and counting on DVD and VHS, the only change Senecal anticipated for the store was to better organize and display its inventory, a library thick with film rarities.

"The business is successful because of the depth of the collection and the expertise of our staff," said Senecal of the store, which has the largest inventory of foreign films in Ottawa. Local universities often refer their history and film students to make the pilgrimage to 779 Bank St. to find the movies that, in many cases, can't be found anywhere else.

Storing such lofty films in such a small space requires

delicate, knowledgeable handling; something Glebe's erudite staff are known for. Senecal is conversant in the classics while veteran Paul Green is an authority on international cinema. Another employee named Cal recently completed an MA in film studies and Senecal is negotiating with a University of Ottawa professor to create a film event.

"This is an important community resource. People like meeting here and discussing film with the staff and each other," said Senecal. "Glebe has been operating for 25 years because the service here is good."

He hopes at some point to offer informal lectures on film in the store and on YouTube, as well as large-screen screenings at independent cinemas.

"We love film, talking about film. That's what makes Glebe Video unique."

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Woman who starved boy to death speaks out at inquest

The inquest. It's being held 11 years after the boy's death because the grandmother only exhausted all of her appeals last year

A woman who so severely neglected and starved her grandson that he wasted away and died portrayed herself in testimony Wednesday at a coroner's inquest as the boy's only hope, lest he be shipped off to foster care.

Jeffrey Baldwin died in 2002 at age five, having withered away to the weight of a baby and being unable to lift his own head. His grandmother, Elva Bottineau, kept the boy and one of his sisters in a cold, fetid room, where they slept among their own waste, the inquest has heard.

The children's parents were barely out of childhood themselves when they had four kids in quick succession, and nearly as swiftly the kids were taken away by children's aid and handed over to the grandparents.

Both Bottineau and her partner, Norman Kidman, who are now serving life sentences for Jeffrey's second-degree murder, had previous convictions for child abuse when they were granted custody of Jeffrey and three siblings — something the Catholic Children's Aid Society only discovered in its files after the boy's death.

Asked during testimony about a series of diplomas that were on the wall of her home, including one for child psychology, the Grade 9 dropout — with an IQ of 69 — swore they were real, from correspondence courses. She wanted to know how a child's

mind works and learn "what Jeffrey was going through," she said.

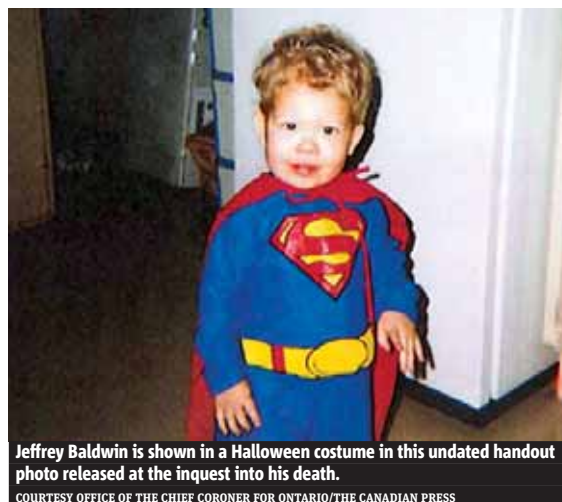
Bottineau was having a hard time with Jeffrey, she said, describing him as having a "slow learning ability."

"If I asked him to pick up a fork he would go to the spoon, not the fork," she said.

"When I put the crayon inside of his hand ... I would try to get him to do circles on the paper, he wouldn't do it. When I tried to talk with him, that was something else. He would just look at me and it was like a cold stare. He didn't want to do it."

Bottineau spent much of her testimony disparaging her daughter's parenting skills. She didn't want the kids to go into foster care, she said, so she had to look after them.

Contrasted to Bottineau's fears about children's aid societies was a statement from



Jeffrey Baldwin is shown in a Halloween costume in this undated handout photo released at the inquest into his death.

COURTESY OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER FOR ONTARIO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jeffrey's surviving siblings, read Wednesday at the inquest by their lawyer, saying they have flourished in the care of their loving, support-

ive foster parents.

They have grown up in separate homes but have regular contact.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Expense scandal

Liberal senator wants Gerstein off committee

Conservative Sen. Irving Gerstein has thwarted a Liberal move to oust him as chairman of a powerful Senate committee until he explains his role in the upper chamber's expenses scandal.

Liberal Sen. Céline Hervieux-Payette raised a point of order Wednesday asking that Gerstein step aside as chairman of the banking, trade and commerce committee until his name is cleared by the RCMP or he agrees to testify before another Senate committee about his role.

Gerstein, who heads the Conservative party's fundraising arm, has been identified in RCMP documents as a central figure in the scheme to reimburse Sen. Mike Duffy for his invalid expense claims and to interfere in an independent audit of Duffy's expenses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

North of Montreal

Big bud bust

The RCMP says it has busted a major cannabis trafficking and production ring north of Montreal.

About 90 police officers made eight arrests and conducted 14 seizures Wednesday in nine different towns in the Laurentian region. Police allege the group was able to produce dozens of kilograms of marijuana on a weekly basis. Officers seized 1,250 cannabis plants, 34 kilograms of buds, \$43,000 in cash and seven vehicles.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Percocet to go

Prescription drugs 'as addictive as heroin': Mother

A grief-stricken mother has made an emotional plea to a parliamentary committee to tackle the problem of prescription drug abuse. Ada Giudice-Tompson, vice-president of the Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids, lost her 29-year-old son eight years ago after he was prescribed Percocet by his doctor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto mayor. Rob Ford took over U.S. headlines in November: Analysis

The Rob Ford saga has received more intensive media coverage in the United States than any other Canadian news story since the turn of the century, newly released media-monitoring figures suggest.

If the Toronto mayor were an advertiser trying to buy up all the global media space he occupied over the month of November, it would have cost him \$1.1 billion, says the Influence Communications analysis, released to The Canadian Press.

"No story in the 21st century has given Canada this much exposure," said Jean-Francois Dumas, president of the Montreal-based media monitoring firm.

"It's not just the tabloids. It's not just People. It's the New York Times, the New York Post. All sorts of media covered this. It became a social phenomenon.... It's truly exceptional in terms of coverage."

Ford, of course, became an international figure of infamy last month when he admitted having smoked crack cocaine, "probably in one of my drunken stupors." Ford



Mayor Rob Ford
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

has apologized and insists he's not an addict.

According to the Influence calculations, Rob Ford was mentioned in 14,385 stories on U.S. TV, radio, websites and in newspapers between Nov. 4 — the day before his fateful admission — and Dec. 1.

Dumas said the story appeared in 75 countries and was the third most-covered story in the world on Nov. 6, while nearly 80 per cent of the foreign coverage occurred in the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PM speaks on spate of suicides

Fourth soldier takes his life. Recent rash of deaths puts national attention on the struggles of soldiers

Condolences

"The loss of any soldier is devastating to the military community and our condolences go out to his family and friends."

Capt. Denny Brown, Army Public Affairs

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has weighed in on the spate of apparent soldier suicides that have rocked the Canadian Forces in recent days.

Harper says everyone should encourage veterans in need to reach out to the support and systems that are there to help.

The prime minister's comments came hours after the Defence Department confirmed the military police at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier in Quebec are investigating the death Tuesday of Master Cpl. Sylvain Lelievre, from the 3rd battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

Lelievre is the fourth soldier believed to have committed suicide since last week.

Lelievre joined the Canadian Forces in June 1985 and was deployed to Bosnia between 2001 and 2002, and again in 2004. He also served in Kandahar from 2010 to 2011.

"As the death took place on the base, it is now under military police investigation. As such, it is inappropriate for us

to comment on the investigation."

The escalating struggle of soldiers has been resonating across the country since word of the suicides began emerging.

The deaths include a senior non-commissioned officer at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, northwest of Ottawa, as well as two other soldiers in Western Canada.

Veterans advocates say the number of apparent suicides within the military in recent days may only hint at the magnitude of the problem. For every death by suicide, they warn, as many as a dozen others may have unsuccessfully sought the same fate.

Veterans ombudsman Guy Parent said spouses of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder need to know how to spot the warning signs. He also says greater financial stability is needed for veterans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Engineer says he went into a 'daze' before deadly derailment

A Metro-North Railroad commuter train pulls into the Spuyten-Duyvil station in the Bronx. The station reopened Wednesday, three days after a nearby derailment killed four people. The engineer of the speeding commuter train that ran off the rails along a curve experienced a hypnotic-like "daze" and nodded at the controls before he suddenly realized something was wrong and hit the brakes, a lawyer said. JIM FITZGERALD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justice system. Vet says jail ill-equipped for PTSD

A British war veteran recently held in the same Alberta jail where a Canadian soldier killed himself says the justice system doesn't properly deal with people who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

John Collins, diagnosed with PTSD about six years ago, was arrested last month at his home in Lethbridge on various charges, including assault. He has since been released on bail.

Last week he learned about the suicide of the artillery soldier, identified by friends as

Travis Halmrast, at the same Lethbridge Correctional Centre.

Collins didn't know Halmrast, but has strong feelings about the case.

"He shouldn't have been there," he said. "From the moment they found out he was ex-military, alarm bells should have been ringing."

Lethbridge police wouldn't talk specifically about the case, but said officers have training to deal with people with mental health issues, including PTSD. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prison couple. Court dismisses inmates' case

A judge has dismissed an application by two inmates at a Saskatchewan prison who are in a relationship and want to live together.

Jean Richer and Leslie Sinobert argued the Correctional Service of Canada is violating their rights.

The two men told court they are in a "long-standing" relationship and want to live in the same house in the minimum-security annex at the federal Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert.

Court heard they are serving life or indeterminate sentences, and were transferred from medium-security to a minimum facility in the spring. They were then assigned to live in different housing units.

Prison officials denied a request by the couple that they be allowed to live under the same roof.

Justice Mona Dovell ruled she has no jurisdiction to determine if a prison's administrative decision is unreasonable.

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Thursday, December 5, 2013



Towering over his fellow protest leaders, boxing champion and presidential hopeful Vitali Klitschko attends a rally in front of the parliament building in Kyiv, Ukraine, in April. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boxing champ joins protests in Ukraine

Vying for the title of president. WBC heavyweight champ Vitali Klitschko emerges as Ukraine's most popular opposition figure

Fighting words

"They stole our hope."

Vitali Klitschko, politician and boxer speaking about the political climate in Ukraine

democracy.

"This is not a revolution. It is a peaceful protest that demands justice," Klitschko told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "The people are not defending political interests. They are defending the idea of living in a civilized country."

Dubbed Dr. Ironfist for his prowess in the boxing ring, Klitschko has scored 45 victories in 47 fights, 41 of them with knockouts. He has successfully defended his title 11 times, most recently in September 2012, and plans to have one more bout before he retires.

Now Klitschko must prove that he has as much stamina in the political arena.

Despite earning a doctorate in sports science, Klitschko has had to fight a stereotype of being intellectually unfit to run this economically troubled nation of 46 million.

Still, he appeals to many Ukrainians with his air of sincerity and his image as a handsome tough guy ready to defend his compatriots.

The angry protests were sparked by the president's abrupt decision last month to ditch a political and economic treaty with the 28-nation European Union in favour of closer economic ties with Russia, which had threatened Ukraine with trade consequences if the country signed the EU deal.

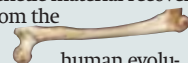
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human evolution

400,000-year-old bone discovered

Scientists have reached farther back than ever into the human ancestry to analyze DNA from a bone found in Spain estimated to be 400,000 years old.

The feat surpasses the previous age record of about 100,000 years for genetic material recovered from the



human evolutionary line. Surprisingly, the DNA shows a close relationship to Denisovans, who lived in Siberia and apparently elsewhere in Asia, far from the Spanish cave where the bone was found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.C. Defunct clinic to dispose of sperm samples

Samples that may be lost

More than 1,200 people have sperm or embryo samples stored at the B.C. fertility clinic

A B.C. Supreme Court judge has given a clinic at the B.C. Women's Centre for Reproductive Health in Vancouver permission to destroy and dispose of sperm specimens if clients don't let the clinic know by Dec. 24 that they want the samples transferred to another facility.

The clinic has been storing sperm for more than 400 class-action members since 2010, when those samples were transferred from a lab run by UBC.

The group, led by lead plaintiff Howard Lam, is suing the university after a power failure in 2002 destroyed hundreds of sperm samples. Lawyer Arthur

Grant, who is representing the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, had argued against the order, as it could "negatively impact the rights of the plaintiff and class members in the class action."

But the clinic stopped operating last year, none of its clients are paying for storage, and it doesn't have the money to keep storing the specimens, court documents posted online this week say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Looters, robbers run riot as police strike for more pay

Cordoba, Argentina.

Hospital authorities reported one shooting death and more than 100 injuries, mostly from shattered glass

A wave of looting and robberies spread across Argentina's second largest city Tuesday night and continued Wednesday.

Opportunists took advantage of a police strike for higher pay which the provincial governor says was triggered by his closure of brothels that provided a money stream to corrupt officers.

The violence in Cordoba began with storefronts being shattered, mobs stealing mer-



A man is detained by police amid spent shell casings outside a supermarket that was being looted in Cordoba, Argentina, Wednesday.
MARIO SAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

chandise, robbers attacking people in the streets and vigilantes arming themselves to protect their homes. Supermarkets and a mobile television van recording the violence were attacked, even as officers and provincial authorities began negotiations to end the strike.

Gov. Jose Manuel de la Sota said 56 people have been ar-

rested.

He said he's offered police a 52-per cent pay increase, including bonuses for street work or extra duty, for a total of 12,600 pesos a month, which he called "the best salary for police in Argentina," according to Cordoba's Voz del Interior newspaper. That represents about \$2,175 monthly at official exchange rate, or about \$1,440 at the black market rate many Argentines consider as a more reliable measure of their money's value.

De la Sota described the strike as a police response to his decision to close 140 brothels that provide income to corrupt officers.

National Security Chief Sergio Berni said 2,000 border police are being deployed in Cordoba to help restore peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Johns targeted in French anti-prostitution legislation

Protesters who support abolition of current prostitution laws rally outside the French National Assembly in Paris Wednesday as parliament voted 268-138 to pass a bill that would decriminalize solicitation and impose on clients fines of 1,500 euros (about \$2,175). The bill now goes to the French senate. Prostitution is currently legal in France, but soliciting and pimping are prohibited. FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Radioactive material

Deadly cobalt-60 found abandoned near stolen truck

A missing shipment of radioactive cobalt-60 was found Wednesday near where the stolen truck transporting the material was abandoned in central Mexico state, the country's nuclear safety director said.

The highly radioactive material was found in an empty lot about a kilometre from Hueyapoxla, an agricultural town of about 4,000 people, but it poses no threat or a need for an evacuation, said Juan Eibenschutz.

The cargo truck hauling cobalt-60 that had been used in medical equipment was stolen from a gas station early Tuesday, and authorities had put out an alert in six central states and the capital looking for it.

Eibenschutz said direct exposure to cobalt-60 could result in death within a few minutes.

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'IT'S AN INSULT': SEALERS

Made in Newfoundland.

Sealers defend hunt in wake of WTO decision to uphold EU trade ban



JONATHAN RUSSELL

jonathan.russell@metronews.ca

"Here you are trying to manoeuvre through the ice — you got to watch those big ice pans — and a big swell in the water ... the boat was moving back and forth ... you got to watch how you're getting through because they can throw together and put a hole right on through the boat, really — it has happened — and then you're trying to get a shot at the seal at the same time and with this buzzing over you."

Keith Bath, 67, first encountered "this buzzing" of an animal-rights helicopter during last year's seal hunt off the coast of St. Anthony, N.L.

Bath, who now lives in La Scie, N.L., has been sealing for 50 years.

Last year's catch "amounted to close to \$300,000," Bath estimates. Each of his seven crew members receive nine per cent



Seal hunters drag a dead seal to their boat in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in this 2008 file photo. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

of the cut. Fuel, his biggest cost, runs around \$20,000. After expenses, the seal hunt represented 40 per cent of his annual income for 2013, he says.

His boat landed some 7,600 seals in two weeks, the majority of which were beater seals, roughly 25 days old. Hunting younger seals, or whitecoats, has been banned since 1987.

In the vast majority of those 7,600 deaths, Bath says he used a .222-, .223-, .22250- or .243-calibre rifle with a scope. Bullets cost just over a dollar each, he says.

"Not many seals are killed

with a hakapik (club) from a longliner (65-footer)," he says of his vessel, which tows a speedboat used by the rest of his crew to collect the seals from the ice. "Good sealers like we are — you know, most everyone — try to make sure that they got a good shot and a head shot ... and if we see that it's crippled, we just give it another bullet."

Bath is one of 4,000 fishermen in Newfoundland and Labrador certified by the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board, which trains sealers in the humane killing of the animals, the regulatory pro-

cess and proper handling procedures.

That certification, coupled with monitoring by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, ensures a humane hunt, according to Frank Pinhorn, executive director of the Canadian Sealers Association.

Pinhorn balked at the World Trade Organization's recent decision to uphold the European Union ban on Canadian seal products based on the necessity "to protect public morals."

"The decision, based on ethics and morality, is an insult to all our sealers," Pinhorn says, adding the reason sealers are targeted by animal-rights groups is "because it's an easy thing to do. They just lucked into the imagery of red, intense blood on pure, white ice."

"They'll lie, they'll cheat, they'll use deceit — because the people making these decisions (at WTO and EU) know absolutely nothing about what it



Keith Bath

means to live in Mary's Harbour, or St. Anthony, or Twillingate, and earn a living from the ocean."

Beyond that, the regulations are heavily enforced, he says. All boats are subject to inspection. Bath says in 2012 one such DFO officer observed his practices.

"I try everything in the world to make sure that it's done as clean as we can do it," Bath says.

"You can make a mistake, anyone can make a mistake. But 90 per cent, I'd say, of (those who) goes out there try to do it as good as they can, have as clean a go as possible."

Protecting 'public morals'

WTO ruling based on fact

The World Trade Organization decision last week to uphold the European ban on Canadian seal products as "necessary to protect public morals" marked a breakthrough in animal-welfare cases, according to a professor of international law.

Robert Howse, who teaches at New York University, says this is because the WTO panel based its decision on factual

findings versus legal findings. They differ in one key respect: A legal finding can be appealed to the appellate body — a factual finding cannot.

"What Canada did claim was that concern about the seal hunt was, on the facts, not a matter of public morality, but the emotional, eccentric opinions of one section of the European public," Howse said.

"(But) the EU presented evidence that is compelling: That you can't have a humane seal hunt in Canada, and the rea-

son you can't is that the conditions under which the hunt occurs are such that it's really not possible to ensure and monitor that humane hunting techniques are being used.

"In other situations of animal welfare (such as slaughterhouses), it would usually be possible to address moral concerns without a ban, by merely requiring that standards of humane treatment be monitored and enforced."

The WTO also ruled, however, the ban does not apply

to Inuit or indigenous communities, "because an advantage granted by the European Union to seal products originating in Greenland (specifically, its Inuit population) is not accorded immediately and unconditionally to the like products originating in Canada."

The Canadian government said it would appeal the ban. "Of course the Canadian government is going to appeal," says Howse, "but the fact is that they're not going to win anything of value."

Quoted



"It's the perfect bourgeois cause, because for the people who (oppose it), in Europe or downtown Toronto, it doesn't affect their own lives at all, not even in the slightest. If they were to get excited about global warming or something, they might have to question how they impact on the environment. But they don't have to do that with the seal hunt; they can blame it all on those nasty Newfoundlanders.... And it has great visuals."

Lars Osberg, professor of economics at Dalhousie University on how the EU seal ban will affect a small part of the population significantly while hardly putting a dent in the region's economy

EU ban a win for animal-rights groups

Sheryl Fink has observed the seal hunt for 11 years, both in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off the eastern coast of Newfoundland, known as the Front.

She says she went to observe “the cruelty, the inhumane killings.”

“It’s allowable to hook a seal in the face,” said Fink, seal campaign director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). “An animal is allowed to be hooked in the face by the gaffe and dragged to the boat.”

The decision last week by the panel of the World Trade Organization was a victory for IFAW and other animal-rights groups.

The 27-member state European Union is now part of 34 countries that ban Canadian seal products, including the U.S. (1972), Russia (2011) and most recently Taiwan (2013).

IFAW and other non-governmental organizations like the International Humane Society submitted an Amicus Brief with their own research and findings referred to by the European Commission in its defence of the seal ban. IFAW was also consulted by the EU as a stakeholder alongside the sealing industry to develop and implement the regulations of the EU ban on seal products, which came into force Aug. 20, 2010.

“This is significant in that it’s just another international body that’s looked at the seal hunt ... and they said seal bans



Sheryl Fink, seal campaign director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare. CONTRIBUTED

are OK,” Fink said of the WTO’s ruling, adding it’s another indication the world does not want seal products.

Haven’t organizations like the IFAW created a negative view of seal products?

“It’s very easy to blame the NGOs and say that we’ve brainwashed everyone — and I only wish we were that powerful, that we’ve brainwashed the WTO, and the Russian Federation, and Taiwan. I kind of wish that were true,” she said, laughing.

“I think the reality is people just don’t want seal products; this just isn’t a product that is wanted or needed in the 21st century, just like we don’t do commercial whaling anymore. I think the time has come where commercial sealing is going to be disappearing.”

In numbers

\$2.8M

According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, roughly 89,000 seals worth \$2.8 million were landed in Newfoundland and Labrador alone.

\$590M

The provincial fishery’s total catch was nearly \$590 million, according to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

\$1.8M

The International Fund for Animal Welfare spent \$1.8 million on its seal campaign in 2012. The IFAW raised \$2.4 million total that year. But it does non-restrictive fundraising: donors gave the money to the IFAW, which then allocated the funds toward the seal campaign.

A harp seal.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

DAOUST

Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust is a professor of Anatomic Pathology and Wildlife Pathology at the University of Prince Edward Island.

“From an animal welfare perspective, these animals (should) be killed as quickly as possible — realizing that it is a hunt and therefore it’s not necessarily successful 100 per cent of the time, just like the slaughtering of domestic animals in slaughterhouses is not effective 100 per cent of the time,” said Daoust. “We insisted at the WTO hearing we go back to the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) report and see what they said, and there is no evidence there that the seal hunt is any worse than other forms of the exploitation of animals. The problem is because of the nature of the hunt — because of the nature of any hunt — it’s very difficult to have robust, statistically valid observation of the whole hunt, which takes into account the weather, the types of boats, the education of individual sealers and coming up with a figure that says, X per cent of the animals are not killed properly.”

DEBATE

Like issues of economic viability and morality, the science around the Canadian seal hunt is divided. Metro interviewed experts in veterinary medicine and animal welfare about the key issue surrounding the hunt: Are seals killed in a humane manner? Both testified at the WTO hearings:

unconscious with the initial shot or shots, and hence which do suffer, is high.”

BROOM

Dr. Donald Broom is a professor of Animal Welfare at the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge University, whose research includes assessing animal welfare, including pain. “I have seen that some statements by animal protection societies over-emphasize the negative aspects of sealing and some statements by sealers over-emphasize the quality of their methods,” said Broom. “Seals are complex animals with a pain system similar to ours, so an injury for some minutes or hours is a major welfare problem in seals. Almost all farm animals in slaughterhouses are handled without fear being caused to them. The stunning procedure in a slaughterhouse usually causes no pain and the animal dies without recovering consciousness. It is rare for the electrical procedure or captive-bolt gun application not to work, but if it does, a second stun occurs within a few seconds. I think that it is correct that many seals shot with a rifle die without suffering. However, the number that are not killed, or rendered unconscious with the initial shot or shots, and hence which do suffer, is high.”

1800s

The commercial seal hunt’s main purpose is to extract oil, large quantities of which are shipped to Britain for fuel for lamps, as a lubricant, as cooking oil, in processing leather and jute, and as a constituent in soap.

1914

The crew of the hunting vessel Newfoundland is caught on the ice for two days in a snowstorm. Seventy-eight men freeze to death on the ice, while 55 survivors lose limbs.

1980s

In 1983, the European Economic Community bans the importation of whitecoats (unweaned harps) and bluebacks (young hooded). In 1987, the federal government prohibits the commercial harvest of whitecoats and bluebacks, and hunting from large vessels.

2009 - Present

In 2009, the European Union bans the import of Canadian seal products. In 2011, the Russian Federation bans the import of seal products. In 2013, Taiwan follows suit.

SOURCE: DFO

Regulating the hunt

Department of Fisheries and Oceans says officers are looking most closely at the “3-step process” recommended by the Independent Veterinarians Working Group (IVWG).

- The amendment involves: a) striking (with approved firearm or hakapik), b) checking (that both halves of the cranium are crushed), and c) bleeding (before waiting a minute to skin the animal).
- DFO says the seal hunt can be properly regulated because the seals — and therefore the sealers — are often concentrated in the same areas: in the Gulf around the Magdalen Islands and in the Front east of the northern peninsula.
- DFO monitoring is done by fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, boat and deployment of officers to each sealing vessel.



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CANADA'S **CHRISTMAS** STORE



Companies are starting to take note of consumer concerns over potentially harmful ingredients in a range of beauty products. JENNIFER POLIXENNI BRANKIN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Beauty industry doing an about-face

Power of the people.

Companies are starting to remove possibly harmful ingredients from products after pressure from customers

An environmental group says cosmetics companies are starting to listen to consumer worries over potentially harmful ingredients in their products.

Toronto-based Environmental Defence says public pressure is beginning to exert influence on the ingredients companies use in everything from shampoo and moisturizers to toothpaste and deodorant.

"The good news is that some companies are listening to the growing concerns from

their customers about the risks of these chemicals," Maggie MacDonald of Environmental Defence said in a release.

"Others need to take the old saying to heart — the customer is always right — and act to remove harmful chemicals."

Procter and Gamble announced in September that it would eliminate triclosan, a commonly used anti-bacterial agent, and phthalates from its personal-care products in 2014.

Johnson and Johnson committed in 2012 to remove triclosan, phthalates, formaldehydes and parabens from its adult toiletries and cosmetics.

Walmart, meanwhile, announced this fall that it would be working toward reducing chemicals starting in January, and promises a public report in two years on how it has fared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Concerns

- **Triclosan**, an anti-bacterial agent, was found by a Health Canada study to be harmful to the environment, but safe for humans. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is currently reviewing the safety of triclosan. Concerns have been raised that triclosan may be triggering hormonal changes, or causing anti-microbial resistance.
- **Phthalates**, a family of chemicals commonly used as plasticizers, raised worried after studies suggested that when ingested, phthalates could cause reproductive and developmental abnormalities in young children.

England. Care for a tent and a spot of tea after getting blotto at the pub?

With the festive season approaching, the scourge of drunk drivers returns, and one pub in Worcestershire, central England, has an innovative solution, installing a campsite in the garden for those too intoxicated to drive home. The Drum and Monkey's Paul Miller took our questions.

How did you come up with this?

We heard about a pub in the area that had apartments for customers to use if they needed. There was nothing like that here so we contacted a tent company and they were happy to sponsor the idea.

Did you have a problem with unruly drunks refusing to leave?

It's not about drunks, more for people who have had just too many drinks to drive, and it's just for December. The police have told us it's a fantastic idea.

What do your neighbours think?

I don't know, but it can't be a bad thing to have free camping facilities. We have not heard any concerns: This is a country pub and we don't have many kids making trouble.

What kind of luxury can I expect if I sleep there?

A mug of tea at breakfast. Maybe a sandwich. On New Year's Eve we have organized free transport for anyone who wants it.

METRO WORLD NEWS



The Drum and Monkey in Worcester, England, has set up a campsite for those too drunk to drive during the month of December. CONTRIBUTED

Market Minute



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'tipsforjesus'

No good deed goes un-Instagrammed

Employees at two Ann Arbor, Mich., bars have seen some unusually big tips this year.

The Ann Arbor News reports that in September a \$3,000 US tip was left for an \$87.98 US bill at Bar Louie and \$7,000 US for a \$200 US bill at Alley Bar.

The tips are among a number reported around the country in recent months. They're chronicled on the photo-sharing application Instagram using the "tipsforjesus" name.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Two arrested in Bitcoin scheme

German police say they have arrested two people and seized illegally generated bitcoins worth more than 700,000 euros (\$950,000 US) in an investigation of computer fraud.

Police say the perpetrators used the processing power of the hacked computers to generate bitcoins, a cryptography-based digital currency. They also are investigating further suspected fraud, violations of copyright law and offences related to the distribution of pornography.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The front of a physical Bitcoin. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY 'SHOPPING'

I've always believed in Santa Claus, because the speed at which he delivers gifts is no faster than the speed at which I buy them.

I shop at a speed that renders me blurry to onlookers.

If there were commandos descending into a mall via zip lines and they saw me entering the store, the first words they would say when their boots touched the ground would be, "Hey, where'd he go?"

Christmas shopping is a necessary Eve-ill, but I treat the mall like it's radioactive and I've left my radiation suit at home. Think of Superman cleaning up his apartment after Lois unexpectedly rings the doorbell — scrubbing his Supershower and hiding his Superspork in a blue-red blur of anxiety.

If you find yourself spending untold minutes at the mall, here are a few pointers I follow to make sure my strategic incursion into the commercial side of the holidays isn't much longer than a holiday commercial.

1) The first step to make Christmas shopping fly by is to



HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

have a plan. If I write "Buy my brother a Blu-ray he already owns" or "Break a nice ornament for Mom before I leave the parking lot," it makes it that much more efficient when it happens.

It also helps if you make a point of setting aside 4:45 to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, so that you're not panicking when shopping time arrives.

2) **Make room for yourself.** Depending on the mood at the mall, being jammed into a sea of zombie-like shoppers can be as terrifying as Night of the Living Dead or as tedious as The Walking Dead. And thanks to terrorism in recent decades, it's no longer appropriate to yell "Bomb!" in a crowded

area.

Instead, start your day off with a hearty breakfast of garlic bulbs, baked beans and whole onions and watch those shoppers disperse like they're pepper and you're a bar of soap.

Not willing to wait in a long line? In New Brunswick,

Saskatchewan or other rural areas, a seasonal cry of "That store wrote 'Xmas' on their sign! Why do they hate the baby Jesus?" is usually enough for the line to leave in a mob (careful of the torches and pitchforks).

In Toronto, Vancouver or other metropolitan areas, try "My word, is that a Discount Divorce, Yoga and Kale Salon?" Watch for latte splashback as they depart.

3) Don't forget that **the gifts you choose can help speed up the process.** For instance, if your kids aren't worth it, just buy batteries that will help power the toys bought by other relatives.

Or, if you believe in the true spirit of Christmas, why not take the money you would have spent on gifts and spend it on the world's many charities? What child wouldn't be touched to hear that you skipped out on the PlayStation so you could put \$500 in the Salvation Army pot? What spouse could argue about vacations when you've spent all the Christmas savings on refugees?

Your whole family will be moved to tears, I guarantee.

This also might be another good time to put the Superman/Santa speed to good use.

You'll believe a man can fly.

ZOOM

Renovation turns things around



STUART C. WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

House is flipped topsy-turvy

A British artist has given the figure of speech "to turn a place upside down" a literal side by making a building topsy-turvy. Alex Chinneck, from London, England, has created an upside-down façade to a derelict building in the centre of the city. The site where the artwork stands dates from 1780 and had been slated for demolition. **METRO**

Artist's bizarre world

"I enjoy tapping into people's love for the simple pleasures in life, like magic and illusion. There is more to life than survival — there is culture that is uplifting and pleasurable."

Alex Chinneck, artist



Chinneck's previous work was a brick façade in Margate, England, that "melted" off the side of a house. COURTESY STEPHEN O'FLAHERTY

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

If you think Instagram is just a den of food snapshots and "narcissistic" selfies, you're doing it wrong. Here are some users to follow for a glimpse of the photo-sharing site's creative side.



COURTESY @PAYPHONES

@rachelrlyle:

The recent introduction of video has allowed Rachel Ryle to bring her brand of stop-motion animation to Instagram. Be careful, Ryle's quirky, simple videos can be addictive.

@payphones:

Dan Marker-Moore's account documents the dying days of the public payphone. The concept is simple, but

the portraits are carefully composed and possessed of more pathos than you might expect.

@andrewknapp:

If you ever wished Waldo, of Where's Waldo fame, was a dog, then Andrew Knapp's account is for you. Knapp takes pictures of his border collie Momo hiding in the wilds of northern Ontario. How quickly can you spot him? (Hint: Look for the red bandana.)

Comments

RE: Woman Fights Ticket For Driving With Google Glass, published Dec. 3

'Suspicion' of speeding? And after the car was stopped? Are all police, dolts? Sounds to me more like the cop didn't actually have a reason to pull her over in the first place. Having a means of distraction nearby does not mean she was distracted. **jeff200 posted to metronews.ca**

How about 'suspicion of being stupid'? Why are drivers going out of their way to find new ways of being distracted?

CCToronto posted to metronews.ca

How about ... the report is probably incorrect in stating 'suspicion of speeding'? She was likely caught for speeding; period. Police won't write a ticket for 'suspicion of speeding' lol! Preposterous.

Koree Em posted to metronews.ca

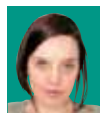
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: ottawaletters@metronews.ca

SCENE 2

It's all good in OneHood.ca

Start-up. It's like a video hiphopedia site for Canadian artists



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

Hip hop fan Robert Robertson is not only passionate about music but also making sure emerging Canadian artists have a tool all their own to help promote their material.

Robertson is the creator of OneHood.ca, a hip-hop-video encyclopedia of sorts based here in Ottawa.

"The vision is to find existing and emerging artists and give them an outlet or a stage — something to get their name out there some more," he explains.

His desire to help Canadian artists started four years ago when a high school friend released some music and Robertson helped spread the word over social media.

That got him thinking.

"There's got to be more than just my buddy in this city," he says.

"Why am I listening to Lil Wayne, who lives in New Orleans, or Young Jeezy, who lives in Atlanta, and Snoop Dogg, who lives in L.A., and I don't even know who's making music right down the street?"

"So I started investigating other artists who live in this city through Facebook and other social networks and I



OneHood.ca features videos by Canadian hip hop artists, listing them city by city. COURTESY ONEHOOD.CA

came up with a list of about 200 guys just from Ottawa."

From there, Robertson began looking at talent in other Canadian cities, compiling lists of hundreds of hip hop artists

in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax and Moncton.

Armed with pages and pages of musicians, links to their music videos, websites

and social networks, Robertson launched his website, OneHood.ca, hoping that, through his site, hip hop artists from across the country will not only gain exposure in their

Quoted

"Why am I listening to Lil Wayne, who lives in New Orleans, or Young Jeezy, who lives in Atlanta, and Snoop Dogg, who lives in L.A., and I don't even know who's making music right down the street?"

Robert Robertson

hometown and other Canadian markets, but that fans will also discover unknown talent.

"What my intentions are is that people who are checking out the Vancouver section from Vancouver and trying to stay up to date with their local artists will go check out what's going on across the country too. My main goal is to bring everyone together, make it all one — that's why I named the site One Hood."

Though he's been compiling data the last few years, Robertson admits the website is still very much in the start-up phase.

Eventually he hopes to monetize the site by turning One Hood into more of a talent management agency for rising hip hop stars.

"I'm working with a lot of people who are fighting to be entertainers where as I'm fighting to give them the opportunity to entertain," says Robertson.

"If only there were more novelists like Rachel Joyce."

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Have you seen the guy who looks like Chris Brown? Meet Kid Ink

Can't beat him, so join him. Relatively new-to-the-scene NY rapper has brought Brown into his projects to avoid mix-ups

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

Right now in the U.S., there's a rap battle royale between the likes of ASAP Rocky and his mob, Kendrick Lamar, 2 Chainz — and the new contender Kid Ink is soon to join the ruckus. The L.A.-born Ink, like ASAP & co., has gathered a following through YouTube and independent releases such as Up & Away, selling 20,000 copies in its first week. While sales and social media (over 408,000 followers on Twitter) make a steady rise, it's his mistaken identity with R&B bad boy Chris Brown that has been of comical concern. It's an issue he's tackling by bringing his so-called doppelganger closer in his collaboration Show Me, which was released this past September. The 27-year-old Ink — real name Brian Todd Collins — is currently etching his name into the music scape through a European tour and his new album, My Own Lane, which drops on January 7.

Seeing as this is your debut album, is it important the tracks define you and your personality?

Yeah, man. That's the best way to put it really. The track My Own Lane is defining my own lane in the industry. It's a message to my core fans who already rock with me and for me to define Kid Ink to new listeners, so that they're not just basing their judgments off two to three records.

What did you learn from the response to your EP Almost Home? Do you take in the fans' response?

When I release stuff on leaked websites or free music that's when I really get the feedback. I try to make sure I release different stuff and see what people gravitate towards — the EP was definitely to test that out.

What have you learned from your fans?

Um honestly, the biggest thing I've learned is the fans do want to hear me by myself. Some people have that insecurity about whether they need to have a feature on a record.

Do you have that insecurity?

To a certain extent you need a call sign to feel like you're doing more, you're doing better. Sometimes when fans see those features they get a

little bit more eager to click and you can feed off that. But my biggest thing is that I like to have features on the hooks: I write songs and write melodies that I want other people to sing.

Why were you keen to be associated with Chris [Brown]?

[Chuckles] Me and Chris worked when I was independent — he hopped on a remix. He was just mad cool and I think when me and Chris are together, people don't compare us as much. Working with Chris has helped me separate myself from him.

There's been a lot of talk about who is the biggest rapper in New York out of Rocky and Kendrick Lamar. What's your opinion?

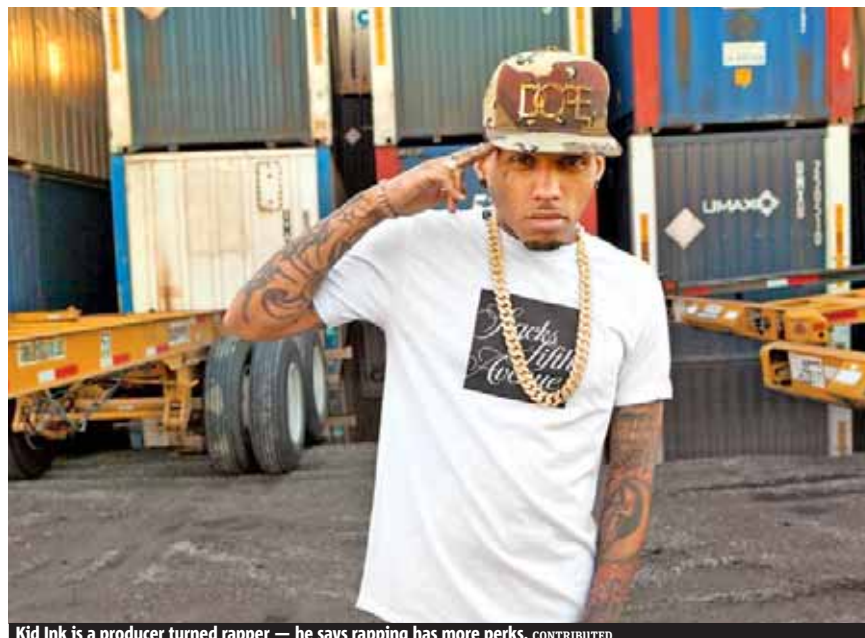
[Laughs] Obviously ASAP Rocky is the biggest artist in New York and Kendrick Lamar is the biggest artist in hip hop.

Are you going to take that crown?

If I'm patient and I have some time, that's my plan, man.

You used to be a producer but I'm guessing that there are perks to being a rapper?

Yeah, man [laughs]. Definitely some perks. I meet people who I met as a producer and they don't even remember you.



Kid Ink is a producer turned rapper — he says rapping has more perks. CONTRIBUTED

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Affleck Out of the Furnace and back into the limelight

Acting break. Gone Baby Gone star took time out to make I'm Still Here with Joaquin Phoenix and has no regrets

This year marked Casey Affleck's return to the big screen after the Oscar-nominated star took a break from acting for a while. In recent months, his Sundance Film Festival hit *Ain't Them Bodies Saints* had a slow rollout in select theatres internationally, and this Friday he can be seen in North American cinemas as a struggling Iraq war vet in *Out of the Furnace*.

The projects come three years after Affleck released his directorial effort, the controversial mockumentary *I'm Still Here*, in which a dishevelled Joaquin Phoenix pretended he was quitting his Oscar-nominated acting career to become a hip-hop artist.

The film was maligned for duping audiences into thinking it was real, and Affleck admits "it was risky in its style" and also a risk for his own acting career as it "sucked up a good deal" of his time and kept him from doing onscreen projects.

"You take a break in Hollywood, you don't act in something for a couple of years, people just forget about you.

That's a lifetime in Hollywood almost, so it's hard to bounce back from that," said the 38-year-old, who got an Oscar nomination for his supporting role in 2007's *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. That's not to say he regrets making *I'm Still Here*.

"I mean, regret seems pointless," Affleck said in a recent telephone interview. "It's not a useful emotion really, although it's always there sort of lingering around. If you're willing to go sit on the stoop with regret, it'll hang out with you, but it's a waste of time.

"So it didn't perform that

well, but neither did Jesse James, and I love that movie. So often movies don't perform well," he added. "Life goes on, you know. I feel pretty blessed to just be doing this.

"And look at me now, you know, I get to work with Christian Bale, Scott Cooper and Forest Whitaker and Woody Harrelson and on and on and on. What could be better?"

Affleck was referring to the all-star team behind the gritty drama *Out of the Furnace*, which is directed by Cooper, who helmed and co-wrote the 2009 Oscar-winning film *Crazy Heart*. Cooper also co-wrote the "Out of the Furnace" script with Brad Ingelsby. Producers include Leonardo DiCaprio and Ridley Scott.

Bale stars as Russell Baze, a hard-working steel mill employee in poverty-stricken Braddock, Penn., during the 2008 economic downturn.

Affleck deftly plays his troubled younger brother, Rodney, an Iraq war vet who can't

find work when he returns home from duty. Indebted to shady characters, he turns to gambling and underground fighting to make a quick buck, forcing his brother to look out for his wellbeing.

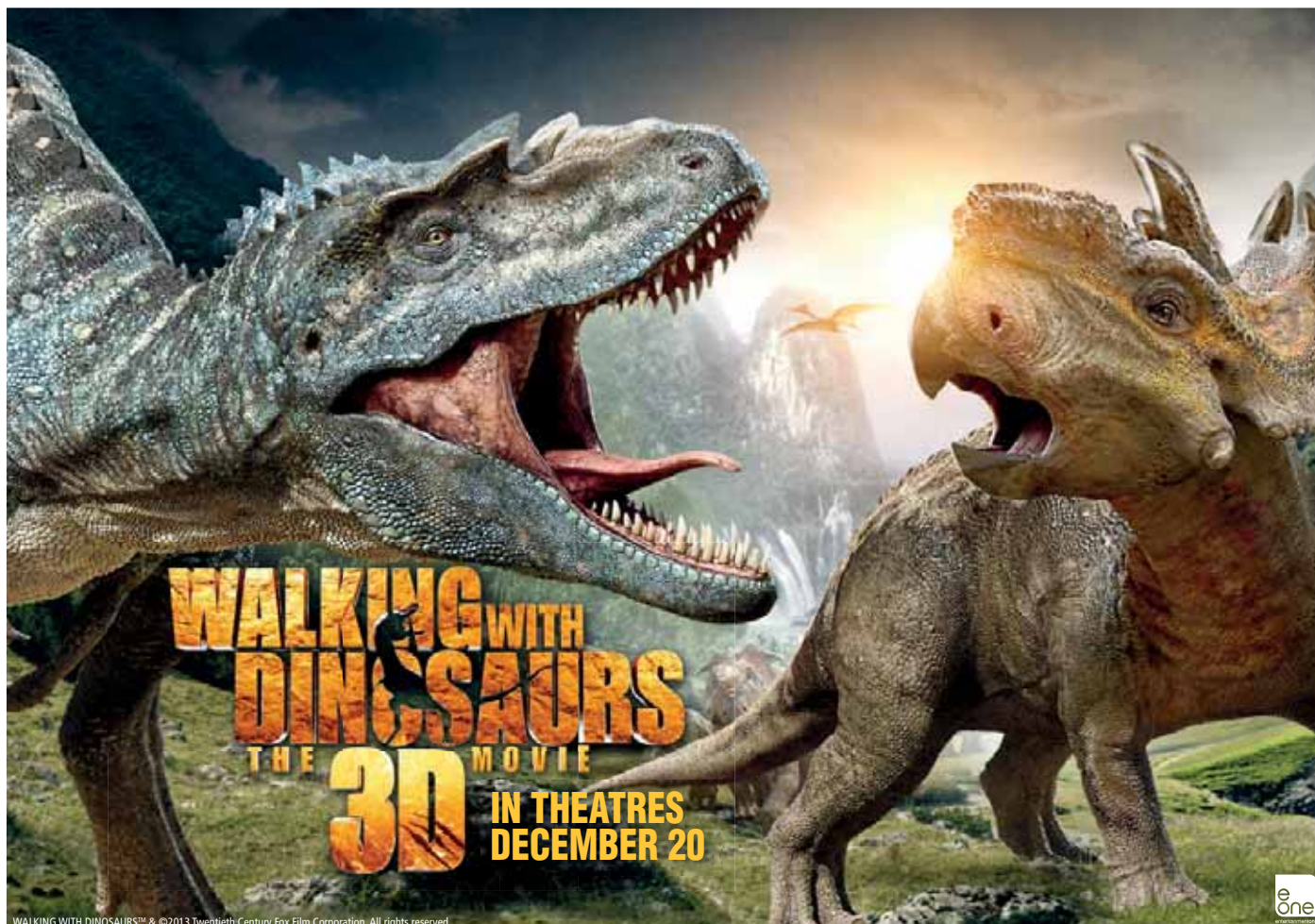
Harrelson brings chills as Harlan DeGroat, vicious leader of a backwoods crime ring in the New Jersey Ramapo Mountains. Whitaker plays a cop. Other cast members include Willem Dafoe as a bookie, Zoe Saldana as Russell's girlfriend and Sam Shepard as the brothers' uncle.

Affleck said he did research into post-traumatic stress disorder, which afflicts his character. He also watched documentaries and spoke with war vets.

He also trained to get in the right physical shape for his fighting matches. Affleck will be seen onscreen again in the new year, when Christopher Nolan's star-packed sci-fi drama *Interstellar* hits theatres. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Casey Affleck in a scene from *Out of the Furnace*. AP PHOTO/RELATIVITY MEDIA



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New Girl creator shares her voice with Metro

Staying funny. Liz Meriwether has a lot to juggle in her job — but awards don't lie, she's doing great

ALEX
KHATCHADOURIAN
Metro World News in New York

Even with three seasons, five Emmy nominations and millions of viewers tuning in to New Girl every Tuesday, show producer/writer Liz Meriwether says her job hasn't gotten any easier. In fact, if anything, it's only gotten more challenging.

Besides performing the difficult and never-ending dance of keeping hundreds of people happy — co-showrunners and writers, the studio, the network — Meriwether also works tirelessly to make sure the voice of New Girl remains her own.

Can you tell us about the episode where Coach and Cece go on a date? How did you decide to go in that direction with those characters?

Well, this is something that obviously causes a fair amount of stress for Schmidt. We thought it was sort of interesting to have this new character come in and not really understand the back story between her and Schmidt, just swoop in and take her out on a date. But, I'm not sure if the Cece-Coach relationship is going to go forward; it might have just been this one date. I think that Cece just wants to get back out there and go out on a date with a really hot guy. I think that's what's going on in her head. It was really fun to shoot them together — they have a really great chemistry. Plus they are both just gorgeous, you know, it's fun to just watch them onscreen.

How long will Damon Wayans Jr. be on the series?

Damon is with us for the rest of the year, which is really exciting. We are so happy to have him back. He just fits in perfectly.

So we know Damon is signed on till the end of the year, but more importantly, what about Ferguson [the cat]?

Well it's funny, because in the next episode there is this date between Cece and Ferguson and it goes really well. I'm kidding, I don't know; I don't have an ending for Ferguson right now. He is the cutest thing. We all kind of fell in love with him and we actually have to hold ourselves back from writing

him into so many episodes because we don't want any Ferguson fatigue. I love Winston's relationship with him. There is sort of an important plot development where Winston realizes he needs to take a step back from Ferguson because their relationship maybe has gotten a little too intense.

Well the storyline says he goes missing.

Yeah, he goes missing and that kind of leaves Winston to blame and makes him take a step back from Ferguson. Nick thinks that Winston has taken himself out of the game with women because he's gotten too into the cat. Nick just wants to help him.

With Jess and Nick it seems like you have written it so they don't go that typical TV relationship path. Can you talk about how it is to write their parts now, in a relationship, as opposed to before when they weren't together?

As someone who doesn't have a lot of experience with happy relationships, it's sort of interesting for me to write them. We didn't want to have them breaking up every five minutes. We really wanted to invest in their relationship and see what would actually happen between them. It's definitely changed the DNA of the show a little, but I think it's important for a show to keep changing and growing and evolving so that it feels real and what would really happen to these people.

You guys are going to have a Super Bowl episode. Have you thought about any storylines yet?

I'm definitely a little nervous about it because it's such a big audience, but in a good way. The story is going to be mostly about Ferguson. [laughs] Just kidding. We really want to create an episode that was group-centered and where everyone can be together. The group gets invited to a big fancy party and it's sort of all of them at this party together ... and I sort of can't say more than that.

Quoted

"We all kind of fell in love with him and we actually have to hold ourselves back from writing him into so many episodes"

Liz Meriwether on Ferguson the cat in New Girl



The cast of the New Girl is always up for laughs. CONTRIBUTED

Actor to writer

Liz Meriwether is a great writer, but did she ever dream of being an actor?

- "In college I did a lot of acting, and started writing in the midst of that, just because I saw writing as an extension of acting and

creating stories for characters. I think my experience really informs how I write. I try to think about the actors and what their strengths are and then write to those strengths. I think there are a lot of jokes that are dependent on the performance."

THE METRO NEWS JUST FOR LAUGHS DEBRA DIGIOVANNI CONTEST

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Walker was finding his step as a father

Final interview. While promoting new film *Hours*, actor talked candidly about his own experiences with fatherhood

Before his death, *Fast & Furious* star Paul Walker was drawing parallels between his real-life role as dad to 15-year-old daughter Meadow and his part as an unexpected father to a newborn baby in the upcoming Hurricane Katrina drama *Hours*.

"I think it definitely helps to have a daughter, but I think if you're a human being and you have love in your heart, you're going to find connective fibers in this," Walker said in a Nov. 14 interview to promote the film. "There's definitely a purity and a truth to it."

Hours stars Walker and Genesis Rodriguez as a couple who



In his last film, *Hours*, Paul Walker plays an expectant father. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

rush to a New Orleans hospital after Rodriguez's character goes into early labour. When the hurricane hits the city, Walker's character finds himself stranded in an evacuated hospital with his ailing newborn daughter.

"My baby wasn't planned," Walker said. "I wasn't married, out of wedlock, the whole bit. (I was) finding my step with

Autopsy report

Fast & Furious star Paul Walker was killed by impact and fire in a crash that occurred while he was a passenger in a Porsche driven by his friend, according to an autopsy released Wednesday. Results of toxicology testing will take another six to eight weeks.

it. I'm still finding my step. I think you always are. I'm five times the father that I was five years ago. Your head's more in it. Your heart's more in it. You can't force it. You want to be better at it, just something hasn't clicked yet."

Walker starred in all but one of the six *Fast & Furious* blockbusters. He had been on break from shooting the latest installment at the time of his death on Saturday; Universal Pictures has shut down production of *Fast & Furious 7* indefinitely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Paul Walker's final film is *Hours*, where he plays a father caught in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. CONTRIBUTED

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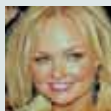
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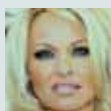
@EmmaBunton

I don't believe it, I've just chipped my tooth while eating cold chocolate!



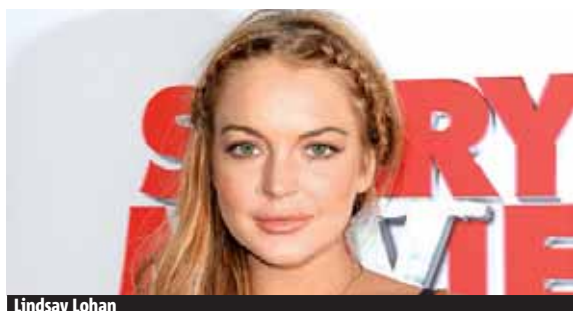
@ladygaga

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@PamelaDAnderson

I love tea. No more coffee for me.



Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay content for now to play with her boy toys

Lindsay Lohan reportedly turned heads at a New York nightclub recently when she cozied up to Michael Neeson, the 18-year-old son of actor Liam Neeson, according to Page Six. "Lindsay was seen leading him into the women's bathroom, hand in-hand," a source says. "Lindsay seems to have a

thing for younger men at the moment." Lohan has also been linked in recent months to 19-year-old model Liam Dean, who apparently got to witness the whole thing. "The odd thing was that Dean was with them all night, even though Lindsay had been seeing him, too." Neeson's publicist denied the story.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Beyoncé and Jay-Z plant their feet for diet challenge

Jay-Z and Beyoncé are officially going vegan until Christmas, the rapper announced on his Life and Times blog. "Psychologists have said it takes 21 days to make or break a habit. On

the 22nd day, you've found the way," he wrote. "One day before my 44th birthday, I will embark on a 22 Days challenge to go completely vegan, or as I prefer to call it, plant-based." He also confirmed that Beyoncé "is also joining me" on his "spiritual and physical cleanse" of sorts. "I don't know what happens after Christmas," he admitted. "A semi-vegan, a full plant-based diet? Or just a spiritual and physical challenge? We'll see."



Chris Hemsworth

There's a reason that Thor kiss was so passionate

If the lip-lock between Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman at the very end of Thor: The Dark World seems awfully intense, that's because it wasn't actually Portman. The Oscar-winning actress tells the New York Daily News that Hemsworth's wife, Elsa Pataky, donned

a wig and filled in for Portman for the scene. "It was for re-shoots, and he was working in Hong Kong and I couldn't get there because I was working on my own film," Portman explains. "And so they put his wife in my wig and costume. That's why it was so passionate."



Tom Daley ALL IMAGES GETTY

Daley's boyfriend isn't just anyone, you know

British Olympic diver Tom Daley announced this week that he has been dating a man for most of this year, but it turns out it isn't just any man. Daley is reportedly dating

Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, according to E! News. The pair was spotted grabbing coffee together in L.A. in October. Black, who won his Academy Award for his script for Milk, is set to direct his next film, The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight, next spring in London, coincidentally.

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Entrepreneur and a gentleman

Paul Smith speaks.

The avuncular 67-year-old combines the eager to please affability of a local shopkeeper with the corporate know-how of a global empire proprietor

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Paul Smith is flitting between an official photographer and a gaggle of student iPhone snaparazzi at a new exhibition, Hello, My Name Is Paul Smith, at the Design Museum in London.

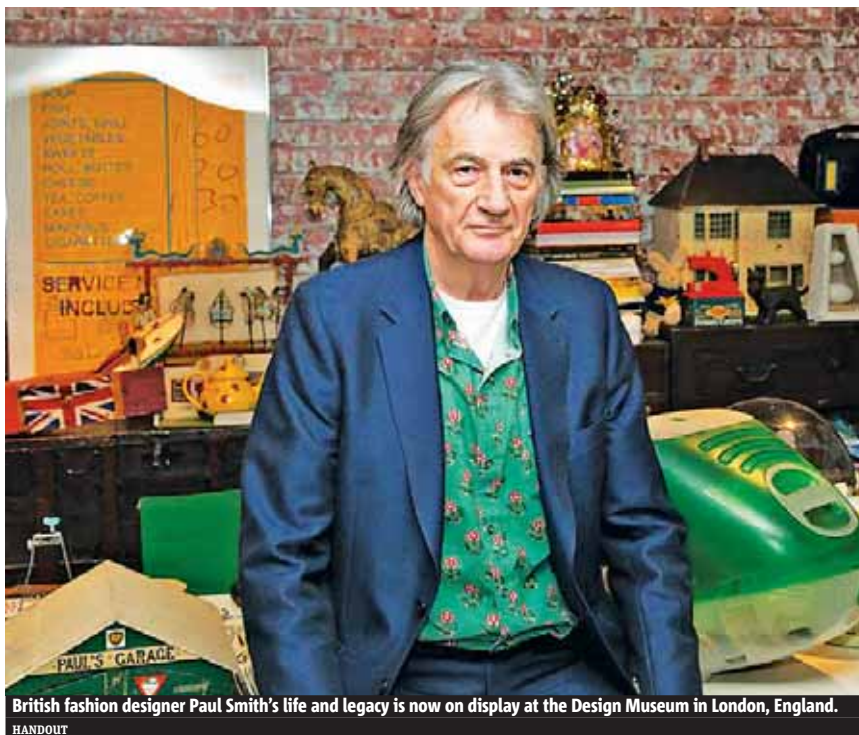
Sir Paul — a title he almost declined — excels at being a man of the people (politicians, take heed). While I'm waiting for my interview, groupies swarm to a gracious welcome — gosh, even toddlers get a hug.

The designer eschews the pretension of high fashion for humanism, a style that's clear in the exhibition's homely curation: fine art pieces flank knick-knacks from fans. Just don't call it a retrospective: "I've got enough stuff for four or five separate exhibitions," he admits.

When was the last time you wore something that wasn't designed by you?

[Laughs] 18. Although, if I'm on holiday and it's suddenly cold and I haven't got a sweater, I might buy a classic cashmere or something.

Do you feel guilty wearing other designers?



British fashion designer Paul Smith's life and legacy is now on display at the Design Museum in London, England.
HANDOUT

Closet caper

"I just like my stuff. I steal it from downstairs; I nick it from the shops."

Paul Smith

No, I just like my stuff. I steal it from downstairs; I nick it from the shops.

They're trying to find the samples...

... And I'm the one who has got them all.

You mentioned before that there is a level of pretentiousness and rudeness within the industry. You'd

expect young people to put in the hard graft and work their way up. How do you feel about unpaid internships?

We've never encouraged unpaid internships. We get three, four, five requests a week for work placements. The best we can do these days is say, "Why don't you come for an afternoon or day?"

So you don't let people do weeks at a time?

No, no.

How do you feel about other designers doing that kind of thing?

Well, I think there is a history of it that goes back 20

or 30 years. When people are starting out, it's supposed to be an honour to work but I'm not really sure about that.

Did you ever want to be famous?

No. In this environment now, you expect people to know who you are, but when I walk down the street luckily I'm not a famous face, so thank goodness for that.

I noticed when I walked into the exhibition that your first shop was tiny. It's like a changing room.

I know. It was meant to be a shop! There was a curtain at the top of some stairs to

a tiny changing room. The point of that exhibit is to show that you can start in a way that is considered very humble and then you can grow...

You're not keen on email and computers in general. Do you think that being immersed in technology kills the creative side?

Personally, I'm not into it but I understand it. If you walk outside my room in Covent Garden there are four young ladies that help me: the PA and secretaries get about 600 emails a day, so I'm very IT savvy, as is the whole company. Personally I find that the use of my own eyes, my photography, my notes, works for me — but each to their own. It's about balance.

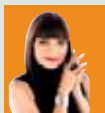
You said before of the runway, "It's £500,000 on 14 minutes." Does it seem a bit ridiculous?

Absolutely. Unfortunately, it's very much part of the process. A lot of the younger designers — and this is another reason for making this exhibition so down to earth — think that's what it's about: a fashion show and about twenty shops or whatever. Actually, it's only a tiny part of the process. Even if you have the best fashion show in the world but you don't make the clothes beautifully at the correct price and deliver on time and get paid, then it's all a bit of a waste of time.

Would you prefer to do a small salon show?

I would love to do a small salon show again. I used to: my first showroom was in a bedroom and my first show was in my friend's apartment in Paris.

Twitter



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Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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Did you know Brussel Sprouts grew on stalks?!?! Delectable veggies by culinary master @Vivian_Reiss

Trends Report

Taking a great photo may be a challenge for some of you, but one New York-based photographer claims he has discovered a way to make virtually anybody photogenic. Go online to Trends Report to watch a tutorial and learn what a "squinch" is and try it out.



Here are my attempts, from fail to perfection. What do you think?

Follow Irene on Twitter @MetrolreneK or on Instagram: kuanirene

metronews.ca/voices/trends-report



Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Name: Sophie

Age: 41

Occupation: TV production manager

What she's wearing

Jacket from Zara, denim vest from H&M, sweater from Gap, bag from Red Flag Design (local), scarf is gifted, jeans from Topshop, sunglasses from Arc Clothing, boots from Gravity Pope.

Her inspiration

"My style is casual and on-the-go. I like versatility in my outfit — something I can wear to the office and go on a night out after."

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spa junkie

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Pining for the scent of a holiday tree

Nothing smells better than when a fresh-cut tree arrives in the house for the holiday season. Sadly, the scent quickly disappears, but there are a variety of ways to re-create it. If you're using an artificial tree this year, you'll want to pick up one (or two) home fragrance options. By layering a few of these, you'll transport yourself into a winter forest. I've sniffed and tested many of the options, and here are the winners.



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohmes
home@metronews.ca

Getting the most out of your home fragrances

- Layer the scent of fresh-cut trees by using a variety of brands and applications. That will create a realistic fragrance throughout the house.
- Dab fragrance oils in discreet places, such as on felt tree ornaments, inside a bathroom tissue roll or on cotton swabs stored in closets.
- Place a diffuser near an air-intake vent so as to distribute the scent throughout the entire house.



ISTOCK



Best fragrance oil

Oils can be dabbed anywhere around the house for a subtle scent. Crabtree & Evelyn Home Fragrance Oil, Windsor Forest scent, \$9, crabtree-evelyn.ca.



Best candle

The royal family of scented candles, infused with rich oils. Diptyque candle in glass, Pine Bark scent, \$75, Holt Renfrew.

Best wax melts

Safer than a candle but with all of the warm-wax smell. Glade Wax Melts Warmer; \$12, Sparkling Spruce scented Wax Melts, \$3, glade.com.



Best air spray

Keep a can near the front door and spritz just before guests arrive. Thymes Home Fragrance Mist, Frasier Fir scent, \$18, thymes.com.



Best reeded diffuser

Place diffusers in open areas like foyers or the corner of the living room. Fruits & Passion Decorative Diffuser Set, Boreal Fir scent, \$28.50, fruits-passion.ca.



Etiquette

The cardinal rules of re-gifting



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

To re-gift, or not to re-gift? We all know that there's been a long-standing debate on the topic — and that at best, it leaves everyone agreeing to disagree. So let's put an end to the debate once and for all.

I'm here to tell you that, yes, re-gifting is acceptable.

You read that correctly: Charles the Butler says it's alright to re-gift. Having said that, there's a rule or two involved that we need to understand, so let's go over them.

- Re-gifting is only acceptable if you have never used the item. This means that, if it is a puzzle, you cannot have tried putting it together; if it is a sweater, you cannot have worn it a few times; if it's a DVD, you cannot have watched it; if it's a computer game, you cannot have tried it out for a couple of weeks. The item must be completely unused and in its original package.
- You must give the item to

a person who you think will really like it. Giving something you don't want just to get it out of your house means it's not a sincere gift. You must believe in your heart that the person will honestly enjoy receiving the item in question as a present.

When you give the gift, ensure you make an effort to wrap it properly, and don't announce to the room that it's a re-gift, because that will surely make the other person uncomfortable. Finally, if you're uncomfortable re-gifting despite all of the above, then don't — donate the item in its original packaging to a charity or worthy cause. Someone will be happy to find it.



No really — you shouldn't have. While re-gifting is an acceptable practice, says Charles, there are a few rules you need to observe. Otherwise, things can go awry. ISTOCK

Crab and Ricotta Mousse: 'Tis the season for creative appetizer ideas

Looking for a classy appetizer idea to whet your guests' pal-

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) lime juice
- 1 envelope unflavoured gelatin
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) boiling water
- 2 stalks of celery, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fresh parsley leaves
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 green onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 tsp (5 ml) lime zest
- 8 oz (225 g) crabmeat, drained, divided
- 1/4-1/2 tsp (1-2 ml) smoked paprika, mild or spicy
- 10 oz (300 g) Quality Cheese Ricotta
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) panko bread crumbs
- Cilantro

ates? Try this Crab and Ricotta Mousse, which is equally delicious with shrimp instead of crab. The mousse can also be moulded in a terrine and served sliced.

1. Pour lime juice into a small bowl and sprinkle with gelatin. Let stand 5 minutes to soften, then add 2 tbsp (30 ml) boiling water to dissolve gelatin.

2. Place celery, parsley, cilantro, green onion and lime zest in a food processor. Process until finely chopped.

3. Add half the crabmeat, the paprika and Ricotta. Process until well combined, add gelatin and season with salt and pepper.

4. To mould the mousse, use a muffin pan or individual moulds (ramekins). Line inside of moulds with plastic wrap or parchment paper to make unmoulding easier.



This recipe serves eight to 10 people. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

5. Pour mousse into moulds. Cover loosely and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.

6. To unmould muffin pan,

invert over a baking sheet, remove plastic wrap and place on plates. To unmould ramekins, invert each over plates and remove plastic wrap.

7. Garnish with remaining crab, panko bread crumbs and cilantro. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA (ALLYOONEEDISCHEESE.CA/GRANDPRIX)

For your phone

Great British Chefs Kids Christmas (iPad/iPhone; free)



MIND THE APP

Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

Show your elves how to share through holiday cooking with these kid-friendly festive recipes curated by British chefs that include gingerbread animals, risotto faces, turkey meatballs and Christmas eclair trees.



Good things come in mini sandwich form

Mini Monte Cristo Sandwiches



This recipe serves 20. PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

1. Cut baguette crosswise into 40 equal slices. Arrange

Ingredients

- 1 baguette (350 g), ends cut off and discarded
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 pkg (120 g) PC French Emmental Slices, cut in forty 2 X 1-1/2-inch (5 X 4 cm) rectangular slices
- 5 oz (150 g) roasted ham, cut in twenty 2 X 1-1/2-inch (5 X 4 cm) rectangular pieces
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whole milk
- 3/4 tsp (4 ml) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) ground nutmeg
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) unsalted butter

on parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush the top of each slice with mustard. Top half of the slices with a slice of Emmental, a piece of ham and another slice of Emmental. Place the remaining baguette slices, mustard side down, on top.

2. In medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, salt, pepper and nutmeg.

3. In nonstick frying pan, melt half of butter over

medium heat. Working with few sandwiches at a time, place in egg mix until they have soaked up a bit of it. Flip over to let them soak other side. Place sandwiches in hot pan. Continue to soak and add sandwiches to hot pan until half of the sandwiches are in pan. Cook 4 minutes per side or until golden and crisp and cheese is melted. Transfer to platter; cover loosely with foil. Repeat with remaining butter and sandwiches.

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By keeping a few basics in mind, hosts can help to ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone, including designated drivers. LLASZLO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Show appreciation to designated drivers

For those who love to entertain, the holidays are a much anticipated opportunity to be the gracious host of a great party. Inviting friends and family to a festive night out is a form of giving and a way to show we care.

But the tone can turn sour if the host suddenly has to play "the heavy" when a guest has had too much to drink,

especially if that guest is planning to drive.

What does a caring host do? One solution is to fill your guest list with designated drivers.

As it is with many circumstances, prevention is the best remedy. Hosts who want to relax and worry less about consequences at their party can encourage guests ahead

of time to volunteer as a designated driver.

By keeping a few basics in mind, hosts can help to ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone, including the designated drivers, as follows:

- Advance planning is key — ask guests to volunteer well before the party.
- Let everyone know you will serve alcohol-free drinks.

- Ask those who plan to drink to leave their vehicles at home.

- Remind volunteers that a designated driver abstains from alcohol.

- Keep the inconvenience to designated drivers to a minimum by matching them with passengers who live close to their home. Tell them you will ask someone else to take a turn driving next time.

- Personally thank designated drivers for helping to keep our roads safe.

Taking the time to show appreciation to those who volunteer is especially important. A recent research report by Ipsos Reid, commissioned by Budweiser (called Designated Driving: A New Generation Comes Of Age) underscores the fact that recognition of designated

drivers is key to encouraging more people to take on the role. Among those surveyed — adults of legal drinking age to 34 years old — the majority agreed that designated drivers don't get enough credit, and 85 per cent agreed that if designated drivers received more credit for what they do, more people would volunteer to be one. **NEWS CANADA**

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Metro and its partners would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!

Keon Clark

Ex-Raptor gets 8 years in prison

Former Toronto Raptor Keon Clark, who has said he is trying to turn his life around, was sentenced to eight years in prison Wednesday in a plea agreement with prosecutors on weapons and driving under the influence charges.

Clark pleaded guilty to two charges in two separate cases and was given four years for each count. He previously faced weapon, drug and traffic-related charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Steelers coach's sideline shuffle proves costly

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin's ill-timed two-step has cost him \$100,000 and could cost his team a pick in next year's draft.

The league fined Tomlin \$100,000 on Wednesday for nearly colluding with Baltimore's Jacoby Jones during a kickoff return on Thanksgiving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trouble in Toronto



"It has been a challenged market there, and certainly

has not translated into enough wins for us there."

Russ Brandon, president of the Buffalo Bills, on the team's series of "home" games played in Toronto. Brandon stopped short of saying the team would consider or be allowed to opt out of the four remaining years of the Bills in Toronto deal, which they renewed in January with Rogers Communications.



The Sens need better play in their own zone from Erik Karlsson and fellow blue-liners. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Senators face uphill climb back to playoffs



THE HOCKEY NEWS
Murray Pam
ottawa@metronews.ca

The Ottawa Senators entered this season with lofty expectations and who could blame them? Advancing to the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs last season will do that for a team.

However, after falling two games under .500, the club is adjusting its sights.

Instead of taking a run at a top-three position in the Atlantic Division, which guarantees a post-season berth, the Senators are reduced to vying for one of two Eastern Conference wild-card spots.

Can the team reverse its misfortune? Sure, but a lot has to happen.

Taking of care of business

Although, the Senators are 4-11-3 versus everyone else, they are 7-1-1 within the Atlantic. As long as the club defeats divisional foes on a regular basis, there is always hope. Including Tuesday, they face Atlantic opponents in five of the next six matches.

It all starts between the pipes

Last season Craig Anderson led all goaltenders in goals-against average and save percentage. However, Anderson's first two months have been sub-par. He has been anything but the reliable goalie of last season, allowing four goals or

more in nine of 18 starts. It's paramount for the Senators' star goalie to return to form. Heir-apparent Robin Lehner is proving to be formidable, but he's another year away from grabbing a firm hold of the reins.

Consistently inconsistent

Defensive play has been the bane for the Senators all season. Erik Karlsson is showing brilliant flashes offensively. The 23-year-old leads all NHL blue-liners with 27 points and ranks second league-wide in ice-time, averaging 27:48 per game. However, at times Karlsson has been the polar opposite in his own zone. Jared Cowen, Eric Gryba and Patrick Wiercioch all have taken a step back in their

development. It's crunch time for these three youngsters as GM Bryan Murray is reportedly attempting to shake the tree.

Breaking up is hard to do

The trio of Clarke MacArthur, Kyle Turris and Bobby Ryan is among the league's elite. Conversely Jason Spezza has seen a revolving door of linemates. It's no surprise the captain's production is somewhat down. Coach Paul MacLean shifted MacArthur to Spezza's line, while Mike Hoffman was recalled from Binghamton to fill his spot.

MacLean has been adamant that when the club reaches the 30-game mark "we are what we are." At the end of this week, we will find out what the Senators are.

King Henrik. Goalie gets 7-year extension in N.Y.C.

Just two days after surprisingly watching from the bench for a second straight game, No. 1 goalie Henrik Lundqvist agreed to a long-term contract extension with the New York Rangers on Wednesday.

Lundqvist, in the final season of a six-year, \$41.25-million deal, agreed to a seven-year contract reportedly worth \$59.5 million. His sal-

ary-cap charge would rise from \$6.875 million to \$8.5 million and make him the NHL's highest-paid goalie.

The 31-year-old native of Sweden is off to a slow start this season, especially by his standards, going 8-11 with a 2.51 goals-against average and a .917 save percentage in 20 games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roar of the Rings

Martin, Jacobs remain unbeaten

There isn't much room at the top as Kevin Martin and Brad Jacobs continued to handle challenges with ease and remain unbeaten with 5-0 records at the Olympic Curling Trials in Winnipeg.

The tie for first will be broken Thursday, when Martin and Jacobs meet in the evening draw.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

24/7. Cameras begin rolling on Leafs' struggles

From injuries to a lack of discipline and a rough stretch on the penalty kill, the Toronto Maple Leafs are dealing with a bevy of problems.

Mired in a five-game losing streak, they'll try to turn things around with the spotlight brighter than ever as HBO's 24/7 cameras began filming them at practice Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Phil Kessel abruptly left practice on Wednesday and was followed into the locker-room by cameras.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

4 SPORTS

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

A friend you have not seen for a while will come back into your life today, tomorrow or over the weekend. This time, when you say farewell, promise to stay in touch — and mean it.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

What you focus your attention on today will seem more important than it is, so make sure you focus on positive things. Your mind is a powerful tool and can create happiness as easily as it creates sadness.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Partners and loved ones will be full of themselves today and you may find it hard to get a word in edgeways. Give the impression you are listening, even if your mind is far away.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You have much to do over the next 24 hours, so start early and don't expect to get home until late. When your head hits the pillow, put all the worries of the day behind you. Tomorrow will be as trying. Get some rest.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Mercury, planet of communication and the mind, joins the Sun in the most creative area of your chart today. What does that mean? You must let the world know your achievements — of which there are plenty.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

What happens today, tomorrow and over the weekend may look chaotic but if you cross your eyes slightly, you will see there is a pattern. Never doubt that your life is moving in the right direction.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

The more you are on the move the today, the more likely it is you'll meet people who bring a smile to your face. What could be more important than that?

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You will, as usual, get your way today and you will, as usual, win whatever battle of words and wits you are involved in. But, just because you win does not mean you are right.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you are not doing so already, you should be making big plans. Cosmic activity in your birth sign indicates that the more things you start the more you will accomplish and the more fun you will have.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It may seem as if you are being held back by circumstances beyond your control but is that true? The planets indicate it's likely that you're putting mental obstacles in your path that have no reason being there.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Friendships and social activities are under excellent stars but why wait for other people to make things happen? Get out and make them happen yourself. A sense of adventure will take you a long way.

Pisces

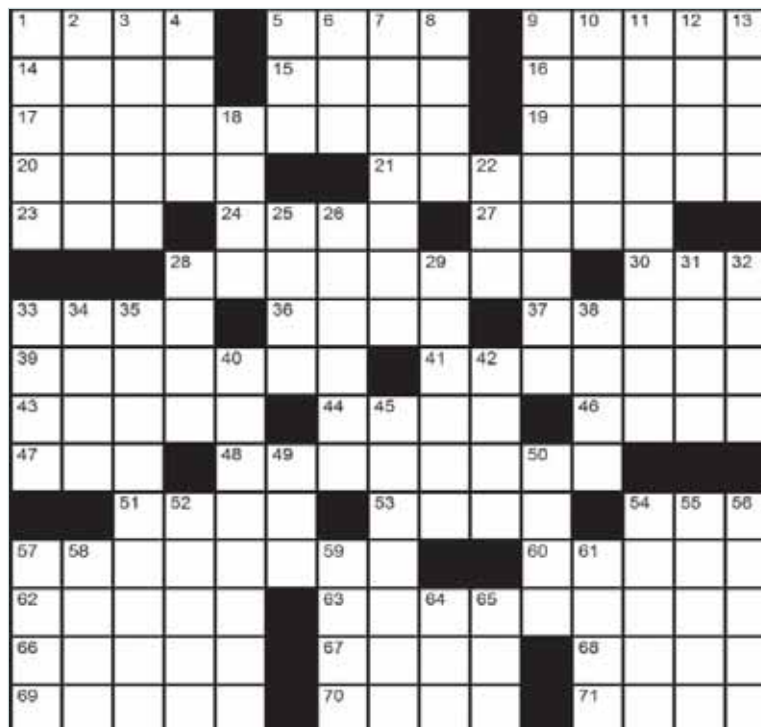
Feb. 20 - March 20

Someone in a position of authority will praise you for a job well done and your confidence will go through the roof. But don't get sloppy. The reason you did such a good job was because you planned and worked hard. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Supreme god of Greek myth
5. Actress Cameron
9. Snail's trail
14. Once
15. "Why, ___ honoured!"
16. Hermit
17. "Canada AM" viewing time
19. Hockey game instrument
20. Harsh
21. City on Lake Ontario between Hamilton and Toronto
23. Dadaist Jean
24. Top notcher
27. Simplicity
28. Winter shoveller's side-of-driveway creation
30. Obi-___ Kenobi
33. Diminutive data
36. CD part, variantly
37. Q. "___ a U2 song?" A. "Yes."
39. Regina-born actor
41. It's helpful in making a comparison
43. Military trainee
44. 19th-century Danish composer, Niels ___
46. Prefix meaning 'Thought'
47. 'Verb' suffix (Wordy)
48. Not a good fit
51. Uncommon, in Latin
53. Writer Roald



54. Directions provider
57. China's biggest city
60. Depart
62. "Rolie ___ Olie"
63. Toronto transport
66. For ___ see (Open for the public)
67. Promissory notes

68. Stylish
69. Ancient civilization of Central America
70. Family ___
71. Sacred

Down

1. Z as in ___
2. Mistake

3. Consume completely: 2 wds.
4. Pre-wedding event
5. "Who cares?" = "What's the ___?"
6. Ms. Lupino
7. Does sponge work
8. Catherine ___ Jones
9. European country where Bratislava is

10. Loughlin and Singer
11. Artsy area of Calgary
12. Lunch, for example
13. Coastal bird [var. sp.]
18. Genghis ___ (Mongol emperor)

22. Mattel guy
25. Encrypt
26. "Dallas" family, The ___
28. Exclusive
29. Evangeline's home
31. Ms. Jolie, to pals
32. Single-named singer with a hyphen in his name
33. Sudbury landmark, ___ Superstack
34. Ms. Vardalos, and others
35. ___-funded agency
38. Dropped in stand-ins
40. Primitive fish
42. Belgium neighbour, for short
45. Michael Ferguson, ___ General of Canada
49. "Uh-uh."
56. She, in Sherbrooke
52. "West Side Story" (1961) character
54. Manly
55. Help
56. "When a Man Loves a Woman" by ___ Sledge
57. Meat-in-a-can
58. Greeting in Granada!
59. "Be that ___ may..."
61. Engrave
64. Ms. McClanahan
65. 'Legal' suffix (Lawyer-speak)

Yesterday's Crossword

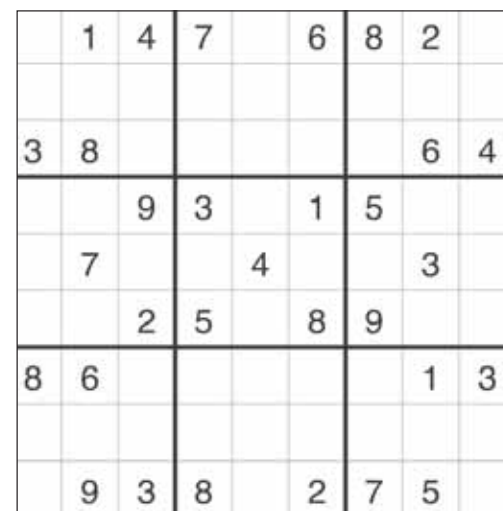


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

7°/-3°
Rain
70%

Friday

0°/-9°
Partly sunny

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

The power of education makes for more happily ever afters.

Soft Toys for Education is back. For any soft toy or children's book purchased at IKEA between October 27 and January 4, the IKEA Foundation will donate \$1 to Save the Children and UNICEF so that more children can go to school.

